THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The seven National Institutes of Technology (NITs) at Calicut, Durgapur, Jaipur, Kurukshetra, Surathkal, Tiruchirappalli and Warangal, alongwith the IIT-Roorkee will organize finishing school courses during the period May—July, 2007.

(b) Finishing Schools will enhance the standard of fresh engineering graduates so that they become acceptable to the industry.

The objective of Finishing Schools is to meet the needs of the unemployed and non-employable engineering graduates from various Engineering Colleges and improve their communication as well as Information Technology skills, while brushing up their knowledge of the core courses. After the completion of the course, these students will be more acceptable not only to the industry but to other sectors of the economy as well.

(c) No, Sir. As the theme of Finishing Schools is to enhance the employability of engineering graduates, admission to these courses will be restricted to persons who completed their graduation in engineering upto 2006 and are unemployed.

UGC Schemes for OBC

1359. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that UGC has not created or evolved or announced any funding, scholarship or fellowships for OBC students;

(b) if so, whether Government will give proper guidance and directions to the UGC to move away from a limited approach;

(c) what specific directions will be given to UGC to extend to OBC students as similar grants, funding, discretionary grants being given to other castes and communities; and

(d) the steps proposed to direct UGC to bring about parity of treatment to OBC scholars during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A Scheme of 'Post-Matric Scholarships to the OBC students' is already being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to promote higher education amongst the OBC students at the post-matric/post-secondary levels including Ph. D. degrees etc. These Scholarships are awarded through the State Government/UT Administration and 100% assistance is provided to them, over and above their committed liability, by the Central Government in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Grading of universities and colleges

1360. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to grade universities colleges; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The National Assessment & Accreditation Council (NAAC) has been set up in 1994 under Section 12CCC of UGC Act, 1956 for assessment and accreditation of Higher Education Institutions in the country. So far, the NAAC has assessed and accredited 131 Universities and 3074 Colleges details with regard to which is available on the website www. naacindia. org.

Setting up of an IIT at Medak, Andhra Pradesh

1361. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the light of the proposed location of IIT at Medak, Andhra Pradesh, there has been a mixed reaction with more and more of reservation and objection for such location; and

(b) the parameters or principles in selecting places for location of new IITs and IIMs?